Appendix 1. List of interviewees: policymakers (PMs) and key informants (Kis)

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| **Interview code** | **Interviewee institution/role/political affiliation** | **Interview date** |
| PM-1 | Lombardy, regional Councillor, FI- Forza Italia | 21 December 2016 |
| PM-2 | Lombardy, municipal Councillor (county capital), Mayor’s list (Catholic background) | 21 October 2016 |
| PM-3 | Lombardy, municipal Councillor (county capital), External expert | 22 July 2016 |
| PM-4 | Lombardy, municipal Councillor (county capital), PD-Democratic Party | 29 November 2016 |
| PM-5 | Lombardy, regional Councillor, AN - National Alliance | 19 December 2016 |
| PM-6 | Lombardy, Public official, managing position (Health and Social Services) | 14 November 2016 |
| PM-7 | Liguria, municipal Councillor (county capital), Municipal list | 7 October 2016 |
| PM-8 | Liguria, municipal Councillor (county capital), Municipal list | 6 December 2016 |
| PM-9 | Liguria, county Councillor, Left (Socialist) | 3 October 2016 |
| PM-10 | Liguria, municipal Mayor (small municipality), Municipal list | 21 September 2016 |
| PM-11 | Apulia, municipal Mayor (medium-size municipality), Municipal list (Centre-left) | 9 November 2016 |
| PM-12 | Apulia, regional Councillor, Five Star Movement | 10 November 2016 |
| KI-13 | Caritas (Charity of Italian Episcopal Conference), spokesperson, Catholic Church | 28 February 2019 |
| KI-14 | Director, Social Cooperative Consortium, Catholic inspired | 28 February 2019 |
| KI-15 | Activist, SlotMob Movement, Focolare Movement | 15 March 2019 |
| KI-16 | Journalist, Catholic Press | 27 March 2019 |
| KI-17 | President, Non-profit organisation, lay/independent | 6 April 2019 |

Appendix 2. Data structure

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| **1st order codes** | **2nd order themes** | **Aggregate theoretical dimensions** |
| * The need to protect children from the risks of gambling
* Protection of minors from specific games (e.g. betting)
 | Educational issues | Morality frame |
| * "Ethical Discount" (tax incentives) for bars/tobacco shops which do not install gaming machines
* Anti-EGM (electronic gambling machines) campaign as a “just cause”
* Gambling as a game not requiring skill (merit vs. luck)
 | Conflict of values |
| * Hypocrisy of state institutions that allow gambling
* Persons on subsistence incomes who require financial assistance after gambling losses
 | Ambivalence of the social actors |
| * Gaming as a problematic phenomenon
* Gaming as an addiction
* Underestimation of the pathological dimensions of gambling
* Increase in requests for health services
* Gambling as a source of problems for the welfare system
 | Gambling as a medical problem | Health and social frame |
| * Problems experienced by the families of gamblers
* Fragility and marginalization of the vulnerable
 | The risks for social cohesion |
| * Protection of the vulnerable
* Protection of the elderly
 | Anti-gambling policies which target vulnerable social groups |
| * Concerns about the proliferation of gambling
* Gambling creates situations which municipalities find unacceptable
* Gambling as a general problem
 | Gambling as an uncontrollable phenomenon | Security and public order frame |
| * The degradation of the vicinity of gambling sites
 | Gambling as the source of degradation |
| * The need for tools to block the proliferation of gambling sites
* The need to suppress the phenomenon
* “Deterrents are needed”
* The role of the local police force.
 | The need for repressive action |
| * Gambling site managers seen as entrepreneurs
* The impossibility of banning a legal business (authorized by the State)
 | Gambling as a legal economic sector | Economic and fiscal frame |
| * The State as the sole recipient of gambling tax revenues
* No revenue gain for local authorities
 | Asymmetry in the State/local authority management of fiscal revenues from gambling |
| * Use of local tax incentives and funding to limit gambling
* Use of local tax disincentives and funding to limit gambling
 | Local fiscal policies |
| * The economic problems of indebted gamblers who require public support (health and social services)
 | Social costs of gambling addictions borne by the local authorities |
| * The problematic relationship between local and central governments
* The State benefits from gambling at a national level but the risks are borne and managed at the local level
 | Divergence of interests between central and local institutions | Institutional frame |
| * Conflict between institutions both locally and regionally (e.g. municipalities and the regional police headquarters)
* Conflict on legal questions between political and administrative institutions (Regional Administrative Court and national courts)
* Alliances between the regions and municipalities
* Alliances between municipalities (e.g. in the drafting and application of hours of operation for gambling sites)
* Variations in regulations between neighbouring municipalities (need for harmonization);
 | Conflict vs alliances between local institutions |
| * State as in part responsible for the spread of gambling
* Institutions unable to defend citizens
* The hypocrisy of prohibitions that are ineffective
 | Declining credibility of institutions |
| * The institutions need new tools to curb the phenomenon
* Local ad hoc regulations on the basis of local needs
* Pressure (only partially effective) of local institutions on operators of gambling sites (public operators)
* Regulatory interventions which are blatantly ineffective in controlling the proliferation of gambling
 | Ineffective legal instruments |
| * Attempts to gain political consensus by campaigning against gambling
* Political exploitation of local public anti-gambling views
 | Anti-gambling policies as a battleground for the creation of political consensus |
| * Citizen involvement
* Involvement of anti-gambling associations
* Involvement of associations sensitive to the ethical and social problems (e.g. Catholic associations)
* Need to involve citizens unaffected by the problem
 | Civil society involvement | Citizens’ frame |
| * Legality as a responsibility shared with citizens
* Alliance between the municipality and citizens to report problem cases
* The active role of associations
* The active role of the Catholic Church
* Allowing the families who are victims of pathological gambling to voice an opinion
 | The third sector and civil society as positive resources |